

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Section 19, Pages 541 - 570

These folders contain correspondence subject files with Governor Edward Arn. Some subjects included are flood, Big Creek Watershed Association, Strawn Dam, Toronto Dam, and the Tuttle Creek Dam. Starting on July 13, 1951, one of the most costly floods in Kansas' history swept down the Kansas River valley into the Missouri River basin. The Kansas River valley had flooded before but not with this magnitude and damage. During the period of July 9-13, some areas in the Kansas River basin received 18.5 inches of rain. The eastern half of the basin averaged 8 inches.

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1951-1955 : Arn)

Date: January 1951-January 1955

Callnumber: Governor's Office, Governor Edward Arn, Correspondence Files, Subject Files Box 59

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 310001

Item Identifier: 310001

www.kansasmemory.org/item/310001

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

19 February 1953

Mr. G. E. Palin
Hartford, Kansas

Dear Mr. Palin:

Thank you for your recent letter, stating your views on the proposed construction of the Strawn Dam. I have received other letters from friends who express the same sentiment concerning this proposed construction that you set forth in your letter, and I assure you that I appreciate receiving them.

In my remarks at Independence last week, I attempted to stress the fact that because of the many other factors involved, such as industrial areas and population, much greater opposition had been expressed to the proposed construction of the Tuttle Creek Dam than had been expressed to the proposed construction of projects in the Neosho River Basin. It was not my intention to convey the idea that there was no opposition to the construction of the latter reservoirs, because indeed I had no knowledge with reference thereto. At that meeting, I made only two positive statements, to wit:

(1) The Kaw River Basin Engineering report would pertain only to the Kaw River Basin and no other.

(2) My position with reference to large dams was the same as it has always been "I favor them if they are worth while and practical for flood protection --- and I oppose them as a waste of money if they are not practical for such purposes."

Thanking you for your interest, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

RECEIVED
FEB 17 1953

Hartford Kans
Feb 14 1953

Governor Edward Arn.

Dear Sir.

In our daily paper the
Empire Gazette and over
Radio Station W 1 B W in
Topeka the news reported that
you were in favor of the
Strauss Dam on the Neosho
River as there was no opposition.

For a man who has been
head of our State of Kansas
for two years and is now
well started on a second two
year term I must say you
are very poorly informed of
the facts.

There has been since

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Andrew Schoepfel was governor
is now and shall continue
to be until the approval is
with drawn in Washington
and the project completely
a fanatical Opposition of the
highest degree.

Governor Schoepfel had
hearings of opposition, Governor
Carlson had hearings of
opposition and you were
at a congressional hearing
conducted by Rep. Hoyle at
which opposition to the
Strawn Dam was given
and yet you say there is
no opposition.

Come to Hartford Kansas
and I'll show you what

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

who and how many are
in opposition to the Strawn
Dam but are in favor of
cheaper, surer and longer
flood control and water supply

Sincerely Yours
J. E. Palin
Hartford, Kansas,

Mr.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

19 February 1953

Miss Mildred Christy
Hartford, Kansas

Dear Miss Christy:

Thank you for your recent letter, stating your views on the proposed construction of the Strawn Dam. I have received other letters from friends who express the same sentiment concerning this proposed construction that you set forth in your letter, and I assure you that I appreciate receiving them.

In my remarks at Independence last week, I attempted to stress the fact that because of the many other factors involved, such as industrial areas and population, much greater opposition had been expressed to the proposed construction of the Tuttle Creek Dam than had been expressed to the proposed construction of projects in the Neosho River Basin. It was not my intention to convey the idea that there was no opposition to the construction of the latter reservoirs, because indeed I had no knowledge with reference thereto. At that meeting, I made only two positive statements, to wit:

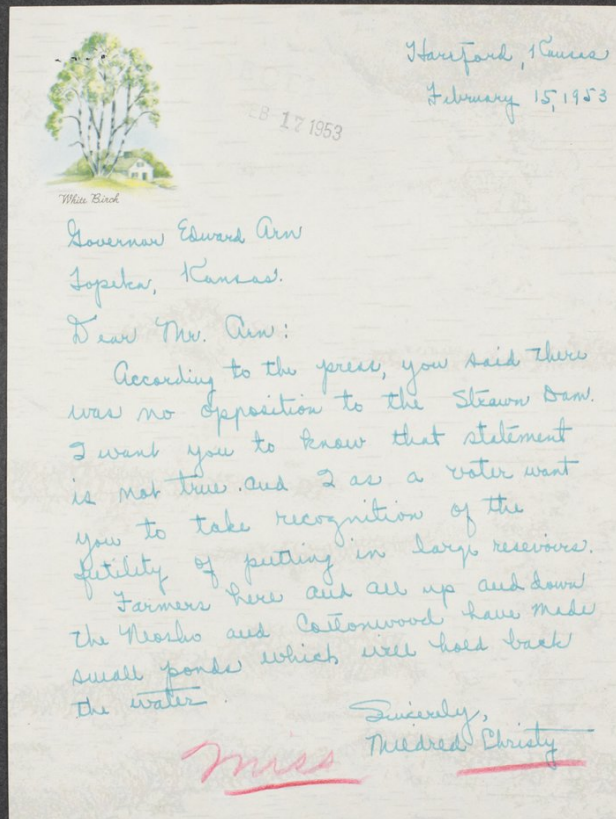
- (1) The Kaw River Basin Engineering report would pertain only to the Kaw River Basin and no other.
- (2) My position with reference to large dams was the same as it has always been "I favor them if they are worth while and practical for flood protection --- and I oppose them as a waste of money if they are not practical for such purposes."

Thanking you for your interest, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

26 February 1953

Mrs. Fred R. Schaefer
Hartford, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Schaefer:

I want to thank you for your card regarding the Strawn Dam. I did not mean to create the impression by my statement that there was no opposition to the building of the Strawn Dam, but rather I meant to convey the idea that in relative numbers of industry and population, there had not been as strong opposition as there had been to the Tuttle Creek Dam.

I trust this will clarify the situation, and it is hoped that the independent survey just completed of the Kansas River Basin will help to solve our problem of flood prevention and control.

Thanking you for your interest and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

cr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

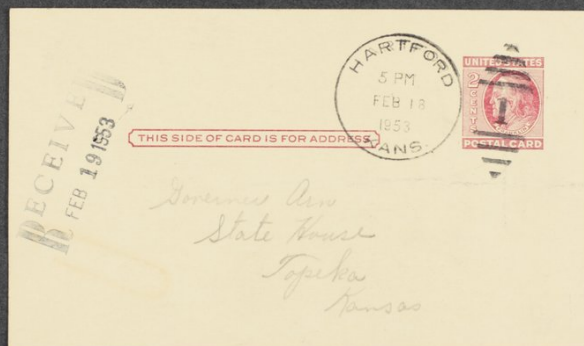
Monday Feb. 16, 1853

Dear Sir,

I have understood you
have heard no opposition to
the Strawns Dam. Well here
is one vote (no.) Our family
has lived in the cotton wood
valley for three generations
and if there are crops any
where. We have had them
only in times of flood. In the
by years there are several
thousand lbs of grain harvested
there in comparison to the hills.

Yours truly
Mrs. Edw. R. Schaefer
Strawns Dam.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

26 February 1953

Reverend Frank H. Ebright
The Methodist Church
Hartford, Kansas

Dear Reverend Ebright:

Many thanks for your understanding letter of February 17th. I, too, believe that the result of the independent survey will contribute toward an answer to the flood prevention problem, which is so vital to all of us.

Regarding my statement concerning the Strawn Dam, I did not mean that there was no opposition to it, only that because of industries affected and population, for instance, there had not been the protest that there had been with regard to Tuttle Creek.

However, as you say, it has aroused the deep feeling existent with the people in that area and it is to be hoped that a final solution will be found for our problem.

It was a pleasure to hear from you, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

cr



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

The Methodist Church

Kansas Conference, Emporia District
OFFICE: FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
EMPORIA, KANSAS

FRANK H. EBRIGHT
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Residence Phone 3003

Minister - Methodist Church
Hartford Kansas

February 17 1953

RECEIVED
K Feb 18 1953

The Honorable Edward F Arn
Governor of Kansas
Topeka Kansas,

Dear Governor Arn:-

I want to thank you for your action in authorizing a committee of experts to restudy the whole Big Dam program as relates to the state of Kansas. And I completely concur in their recommendations as reported in the morning papers. I sincerely hope that that will be the action to follow. I have noted for years the filling up of the creeks and rivers with trees and rubbish, the endless turns and twists in the channels and have wondered, as an amateur, why can't the rivers and creeks be straightened and the channels cleaned and deepened.

Your statement that the Strawn Dam is probably justifiable because there is so little opposition to it on the part of the people concerned has been a good thing in that it is arousing the deep feelings in this community to protest. I hope that you will feel the same opposition from them that is manifest around the Tuttle Creek.

The Big Dam day we trust is -if not over- stopped until we are sure that it is the economical and wise program to follow. By following the recommendations of your Survey Committee the cities can be protected with far less expense than the Dam would entail.

Sincerely,

Frank H. Ebright

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Februrary 27, 1953

Mr. and Mrs. Connie O'Connor
Route 1
Hartford, Kansas

Dear Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning your opposition to the building of large dams, and in particular reference to the Strawn Dam.

I am indeed sorry that the impression was made that there was no opposition to the Strawn Dam...the thought I meant to convey was that in view of the large number of industries and population involved in the Kaw River Basin, there was not as much opposition to the Strawn Dam as there was to the Tuttle Creek Dam. The survey made was in relation to the Kaw Basin only, and it necessarily follows that many of the conclusions reached in that regard would apply to other large dam construction. I firmly believe that the survey was a step in the right direction and a contribution to the final analysis of whether or not large dams would give us a realistic control and prevention.

Thanking you for writing and with every good wish,
I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Hartford Kansas
Route 1
February 18-1952

FEB 19 1952

Gov. Edward Arn
Gov. of Kans.
Topeka Kans.

Hon. Sir-

We read an article in the paper where you have approved of the Strawn Dam and said there was no opposition. We oppose it greatly as do hundreds of other folks around here - but we are "little fellows" yet we help make America. It does not seem fair to put in this large Dam and move us all out of our homes that we have worked hard to maintain. There are proven other methods that will help both sides. We just do not seem to have big contacts if you & some other officials do not help us. We voted for you so we expect help from you. That is the only reason a Dem. got elected in Kansas is all the dams & he promised help. The next election may mean a difference for the Republicans if they do not work for us. All we ask is to investigate other methods than this Big Dam.

Sincerely yours
Mr & Mrs. Connie O'Connor

Route 1, Hartford, Mo.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

February 27, 1953

Mrs. J. T. Cunningham
Hartford, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Cunningham:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning your opposition to the building of large dams, and in particular reference to the Strawn Dam.

I am indeed sorry that the impression was made that there was no opposition to the Strawn Dam... the though I meant to convey was that in view of the large number of industries and population involved in the Kaw River Basin, there was not as much opposition to the Strawn Dam as there was to the Tuttle Creek Dam. The survey made was in relation to the Kaw Basin only, and it necessarily follows that many of the conclusions reached in that regard would apply to other large dam construction. I firmly believe that the survey was a step in the right direction and a contribution to the final analysis of whether or not large dams would give us a realistic control and prevention.

Thanking you for writing and with every good wish,
I am

Sincerely,

GOVERNOR

EFA:cmr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

(b)
Mrs. J. T. Cunningham
Hartford, Kansas
FEB 19 1953

Dear Sir.

Apparently you have been
miss in hand if you think
there is any opposition to
the proposed Strawn Dam.
we do not just oppose it,
we have a better plan that
has been tried & proven. that is
of small dams & extensive conservation
work. these dams should be in
our future & the conservation on all
of our farms. lets hold the soil
where it falls. so that we can
go on farming our fertile bottom
around. we do not want Refuse
Strawn Dam. Sincerely
J. T. Cunningham
Mrs. J. T. Cunningham

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

27 February 1953

Mrs. A. B. Ponkoskie

Route 1

Hartford, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Ponkoskie:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning your opposition to the building of large dams, and in particular reference to the Strawn Dam.

I am indeed sorry that the impression was made that there was no opposition to the Strawn Dam... the thought I meant to convey was that in view of the large number of industries and population involved in the Kaw River Basin, there was not as much opposition to the Strawn Dam as there was to the Tuttle Creek Dam. The survey made was in relation to the Kaw Basin only, and it necessarily follows that many of the conclusions reached in that regard would apply to other large dam construction. I firmly believe that the survey was a step in the right direction and a contribution to the final analysis of whether or not large dams would give us a realistic control and prevention.

Thanking you for writing, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

cr

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Hartford, Kansas
Feb. 17, 1953.

Governor Arn,
Topeka, Kans,

RECEIVED
FEB 19 1953

Dear Sir:

It is a deplorable fact, when
we who live in this community
realize we are being shored
around by one man with a
lot of political brass.

We have not moved out and
are not in favor of this Stream
dam or any other dam that
takes away people's rights to

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

farm and live the life they
have chosen.

Please! hear the plea of the
farmers.

Sincerely

Wm. A. B. Ponkskie
Route 1.

Hartford, Kansas.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

4 March 1953

Mrs. Edith Monfort, Sec'y.
Kansas Watersheds Association
Reading, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Monfort:

Thanks so much for your letter of February 25th, and
for the attached copy of the policy resolution adopted
at your meeting on February 23rd.

I note your mention of the people from the area of the
Strawn and Toronto dams. I am afraid there was some
misunderstanding concerning my statements in regard
to this area. I did not mean to convey the impression
that there was no opposition....but that in view of the
industries and large number of population, there had
been more voiced opposition to Tuttle Creek than others.
I have received a number of letters from these good
people, and in each case have tried to explain to them
the intent of my statements.

I am most happy to have your resolution on file, and
appreciate your splendid cooperation.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely,

G O V E R N O R

cr



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

The Kansas Watersheds Association, Inc.

RECEIVED
FEB 27 1953

Reading, Kansas,
February 25, 1953

Governor Edwin F. Arn,
Office of the Governor,
Topeka, Kansas.

My dear Gov. Arn:

I am sending you a copy of the policy resolution adopted by the Kansas Watersheds Association at its meeting February 23, which we feel puts us abreast of the recent developments and present status in water management programs.

I believe it would interest you to know that 137 persons registered at the meeting. This is actual count, not "estimate". There were some of course who failed to register.

These people came from wide areas representing the following named river basins of the state plus the Kansas City flood zone: Delaware, Blue, Republican, Solomon, Smoky Hill, Lyons Creek, Clark's Creek, Wakarusa, Marais des Cygnes, Marmaton, Pottawatomie, Neosho, Cottonwood, Cedar Creek, and Verdigris. A look at your map of Kansas will show you that it just about covers the area now under controversy.

The largest single delegation, numbering better than 60, came from the Neosho basin in the area of the proposed Strawn Dam. There were 30 from the area of the proposed Toronto Dam on the Verdigris River. I believe this is your answer to the question whether the opposition to these two projects has faded.

The Blue Valley folk can, we hope, soon relax their personal fight. But as they do so others are ready to take the torch on a "we are next" philosophy.

The Kansas Watersheds Association has had two major purposes, first, to provide a central meeting ground for these widely spread people, and, second, to leave no effort undone that might lead to the best possible solution to the problems of water management for Kansas and the nation.

In this latter connection, I think we are all deeply grateful as individuals to you for the active interest you have taken in the problem, and especially for your undertaking the engineering review program at the state level.

Mrs. Edith Monfort, sec.
Reading, Kansas.

Most sincerely yours,

Edith Monfort

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

THE KANSAS WATERSHEDS ASSOCIATION, INC.

POLICY STATEMENT of Kansas Watersheds Association in session
Monday, February 23, 1953.

The Kansas Watersheds Association, pursuant to its policy of seeking to find the best answers to the problems of water scarcity and excess and promote a sound program for Kansas, adopts the following resolution:

- (1). That our major purpose continues to be to unite the people of the state of Kansas behind a sound water-land use planning, and we feel that a contribution has been made by the recent state Kansas River Basin Survey and Missouri Basin Survey reports;
- (2). That we welcome the Kansas Basin Survey report in its preliminary form and await the final statement;
- (3). That we approve the selection of the engineers made by Governor Arn and the Kansas Industrial Developments Commission, recognizing them to be men of highest professional standing and integrity;
- (4). That it is our hope that the independent survey program, having made a real contribution to the Kansas River Basin, can be extended to the entire state;
- (5). That Kansas is now challenged to adopt a program, beneficial above cost, and that will fit into national policy and contribute to the evolution of national policy;
- (6). That the immediate task is to secure passage of the proposed watershed district law to enable the people of Kansas to secure protection against floods and promote greater use and control of water and conservation of our topsoil.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

RE: The hearing of the Corps of Engineers before the joint session of the House Committee on Flood Control and Drainage and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Topeka, Kansas, Feb. 25, 1953

Those who listened in on the hearing of the Corps of Engineers before the House Flood Control Committee at the statehouse Wednesday afternoon noted points at which Army Engineer thinking is being affected by independent opinions.

Col. Herb of the Tulsa office of the Corps of Engineers conceded that "we are not talking 'complete' flood control."

This is an apparent response to the demand of both the recent Kansas Basin report and the Missouri Basin Survey report that the public be given accurate information as to what portion of flooding would remain after proposed programs were installed.

Studies of the 1951 flood show that the recommended big dam program for the Neosho Basin would have reduced the flood damages there by only 15%, according to Col. Herb, while in the Verdigris Basin the reduction would have been some larger but still little more than half.

This is quite a reversal of the former impressions coming from that agency that big dams would control big floods.

But the Army officer hastened to call attention to an estimated 95% reduction of year by year flood damages that would be expected from the big dam program.

When questioned about effectiveness of the small detention dam program for such reductions, the Army engineer fell back on the water supply use of dams that hold water. This is an old ruse of the multiple purpose theory which permits proponents of big dams to confuse the issue by diverting attention to another phase, rather than answer the argument in hand.

From the floor, attention was called to the fact that storage capacity kept full for water supply would not likely be empty for the

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

Committee on the
of the House of
Representatives

storing of flood waters when needed. How an already recognized insufficient flood storage program could spare storage for other uses and still be regarded as satisfactory flood control was not discussed.

When Col. Herb was asked how far downstream below a dam protection might be expected, the answer was lost in a confusion shuffling maps and charts.

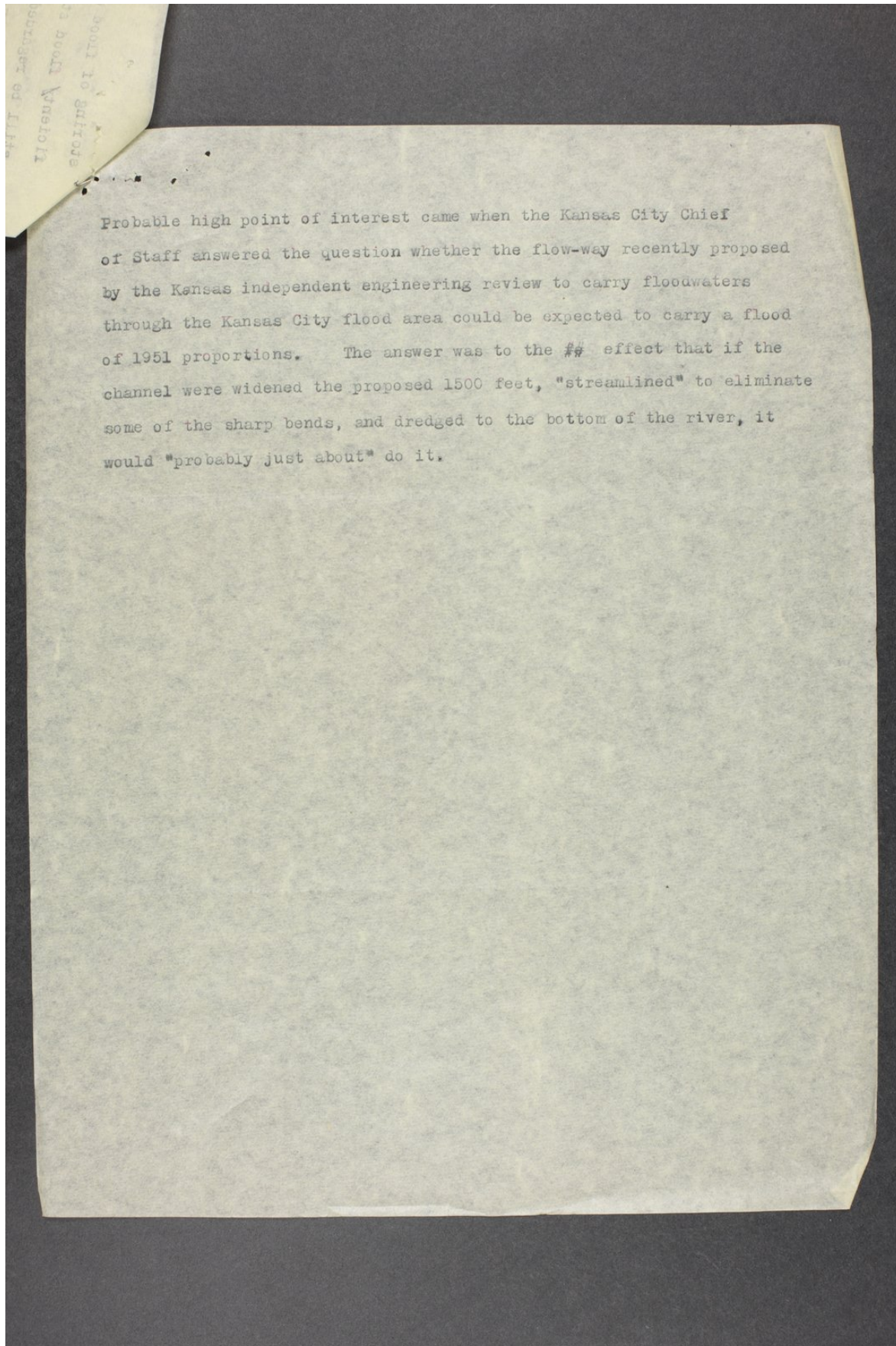
Col. L.J. Lincoln of the Kansas City office attempted to stay with traditional Corps' of Engineers thinking in defending the proposals for the Kansas Basin.

In discussing protection of farmlands on the mainstem the Army man retained the old reasoning of adding up the total acres lying in the flood plain below the proposed dams clear to the mouth of the stream, perhaps several hundred miles, to indicate extent of benefits, without suggesting what part of the flood damages might be mitigated by the program.

Col. Lincoln assured the audience that it was quite possible to work out a management of impoundments and releases of water in a complicated system of dams to meet emergencies, without going into the problem of emptying dams requiring ten days to three or four months to empty within the span of the few days within which any reasonable forecast of storm patterns can be made.

In obvious sequel to the hearing of the Kansas River Survey before the joint session of the legislature the previous week, Col. Lincoln was asked what contact has occurred between the independent review board and the Corps. He answered that the Corps has supplied the independent Board with all its basic data, all its conclusions, and very much of its computations."

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59



Probable high point of interest came when the Kansas City Chief of Staff answered the question whether the flow-way recently proposed by the Kansas independent engineering review to carry floodwaters through the Kansas City flood area could be expected to carry a flood of 1951 proportions. The answer was to the effect that if the channel were widened the proposed 1500 feet, "streamlined" to eliminate some of the sharp bends, and dredged to the bottom of the river, it would "probably just about" do it.

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

February 3, 1954

Hon. Joseph M. Dodge
Director of the Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dodge:

I know you have a great many problems with reference to appropriations for dam construction and many other items. Many of these requests come from Kansas and I readily agree that there is considerable doubt as to the advisability of at least one of the proposals here in this state. However, I am somewhat familiar with the construction of the proposed Toronto Dam where the drainage area involved is much smaller, where there is a faster run-off and which is conducive to proper stream control through the construction of a reservoir. From the information which I have been able to obtain, this project is sound from an engineering standpoint, and I am certain that the benefits derived from this project in both wet and dry years far exceed the cost involved.

I sincerely hope your department will be able to assist our Kansas Senators and Congressmen in having this item included in the national budget.

With every good wish, I am

Respectfully,

G o v e r n o r

EFA:mh
cc -
J. A. Lyon, President
Verdigris Valley Conservation
& Flood Control Ass'n
Fredonia, Kansas



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

CARLTON HALL, VICE PRESIDENT
COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS
DAVE JOHNSON, VICE PRESIDENT
NOWATA, OKLAHOMA
BERT WOODMAN, VICE PRESIDENT
INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS

J. A. LYON, PRESIDENT
FREDONIA, KANSAS

C. W. MORRIS, VICE PRESIDENT
NEODESHA, KANSAS
GLENN BEAL, VICE PRESIDENT
FREDONIA, KANSAS
EMMETT WILSON, SECY & TREAS.
INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS

VERDIGRIS VALLEY CONSERVATION AND FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS BASINS FLOOD CONTROL ASS'N

Fredonia, Kansas
February 1, 1954

RECEIVED
FEB 3 1954

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Edward F. Arn
Governor of the State of Kansas
State Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Governor:

In regard to our telephone conversation about our Toronto Dam project, as you may know Senators Carlson and Schoeppel and our Third District Congressman, Myron George have upon numerous occasions appeared before the Director of the Budget, Joseph M. Dodge, requesting an appropriation for the construction of the Toronto Dam.

I am sure if you would write Mr. Dodge giving this project your approval and coming from the Governor of this state will be indeed helpful. As stated, Mr. Dodge has promised an appropriation in the forthcoming supplemental budget to Congressman Myron George.

As the ratio and costs of benefits to this project is ever mounting in both wet and dry years, the feasibility for the construction of this dam is beyond question of doubt.

The people of southeastern Kansas will indeed appreciate this special favor and courtesy at this time. May I, as president of the Verdigris Valley Conservation and Flood Association, take this opportunity to thank you in advance for this very special favor.

Respectfully,

J. A. Lyon, Pres.

JAI:gh

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1954

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FEB 17 1954

My dear Governor Arn:

Thank you for your letter of February 3, 1954, concerning an appropriation for the initiation of construction of Toronto Dam, Kansas.

In furtherance of the policies of this administration, the President recommended the starting or resumption of a limited number of civil works projects in the 1955 budget. The current stringent fiscal situation necessitated the establishment of strict criteria to govern the selection of these projects. Unfortunately, Toronto Dam was one of the projects which did not meet these criteria and could not be included at that time.

We appreciate having the benefits of your views on this project and you may be assured that full consideration will again be given to the project at a later date in the light of the then prevailing fiscal situation.

Sincerely yours,

Rowland Hughes
Deputy Director

Honorable Edward F. Arn
Governor of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

FEB 17 1954

My dear Governor Arn:

Thank you for your letter of February 3, 1954, concerning an appropriation for the initiation of construction of Toronto Dam, Kansas.

In furtherance of the policies of this administration, the President recommended the starting or resumption of a limited number of civil works projects in the 1955 budget. The current stringent fiscal situation necessitated the establishment of strict criteria to govern the selection of these projects. Unfortunately, Toronto Dam was one of the projects which did not meet these criteria and could not be included at that time.

We appreciate having the benefits of your views on this project and you may be assured that full consideration will again be given to the project at a later date in the light of the then prevailing fiscal situation.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Rowland Hughes
Deputy Director

Honorable Edward F. Arn
Governor of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas

Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

March 12, 1954

Mr. W. E. Marshall, Chairman
Greenwood County Soil Conservation District
Eureka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Your letter of March 5th in regard to the resolution
opposing the Toronto Dam has been received, but as
Governor Arn is out of the office at this time it will
be held for his attention on his return.

Very truly yours,

h

Personal Secretary

3-12-54
Gov. asked that I
ans. this as above.



Governor Edward Arn, correspondence files, box 59

